



## **WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL**

317 W. Main Street  
Boise, ID 83735-0790

### **TRANSMITTAL # 2**

### **MEMORANDUM**

**February 13, 2004**

**TO:** Workforce Development Council

**FROM:** David Lehman, Office of Governor Kempthorne

**SUBJECT:** WIA Incentive Grant Modification

**ACTION REQUESTED:** Approval of WIA Incentive Grant Modification

#### **BACKGROUND:**

On June 30, 2002, the U.S. Department of Labor awarded WIA Incentive Funds totaling \$975,500 to support a proposal developed by the Office of the Governor, the Department of Education (ABE), Division of Professional-Technical Education, and Department of Labor and approved by the Workforce Development Council. These funds were made available to Idaho since it was one of only 12 states to exceed PY2001 performance levels in WIA Title I, adult education, and professional-technical education programs. Idaho's Incentive Funds proposal offered activities that would improve services to business, build staff capacity, support system building and enhance system access.

Since unexpended Incentive Funds will be recaptured by the U.S. Department of Labor after June 30, 2004, Incentive Agreements and related budgets with ABE, Professional-Technical Education, and local workforce investment boards were recently reviewed. All activities are well underway and all parties anticipate expenditure of funds as outlined in their Agreements.

Currently, \$135,000 of Incentive Funds initially targeted for staff capacity and system building activities are uncommitted and will be recaptured if not expended at the end of this program year.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

The interagency team consisting of staff from Idaho Department of Labor, Division of Professional-Technical Education, and Office of Adult Basic Education, recommends these uncommitted funds provide additional support for improving services to business including the local pilots previously approved by the Workforce Development Council and design and implementation of a Business Retention and Expansion model targeted to in-state businesses. The initiative will implement the goals included in the Governor's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Workforce Policy Academy to expand business awareness of services available through the workforce system. Any remaining funds not needed for this effort will be used to provide greater business access to state recruitment services and installation of additional workstations for the disabled.

**Attachment**

|          |           |              |                          |
|----------|-----------|--------------|--------------------------|
| Contact: | Primary   | Cheryl Brush | (208) 332-3570 ext. 3312 |
|          | Secondary | Kay Vaughan  | (208) 332-3570 ext. 3310 |

## **MODIFICATION TO INCENTIVE GRANT**

### **IMPROVING SERVICES TO BUSINESS - \$465,000 (Originally \$241,500)**

#### **Local Business Pilots - \$330,000**

Rather than one statewide effort, the Workforce Development Council asked local workforce investment areas to submit proposals for a portion of these funds to offer innovative approaches for improving services to business in their area. Local workforce investment area proposals were submitted by all six areas, were reviewed by a panel comprised of representatives of the Department of Labor, Department of Education and Division of Professional-Technical Education, and approved by the Council. Project successes will be shared between the areas and with the Council.

#### **Business Retention and Expansion - \$135,000**

The expansion and retention of existing Idaho businesses is critical to our economic growth and development of high wage jobs for Idaho citizens. The resources of Idaho's economic development and workforce development system will be combined to support a new Business Retention and Expansion Program, targeted to existing Idaho businesses. The overall program objective is to expand awareness and utilization of business services and incentives. Incentive grant funds will be used to pay a portion of the development and implementation costs for a marketing campaign to promote the workforce development service offerings as well as other economic incentives. Funds will also be used to develop training for staff of various workforce and economic development partners to expand awareness of business services and incentives and expand the resource base for recruiting Idaho businesses. Finally, funds will support development of an automated customer management system to manage business contacts.

### **BUILDING STAFF CAPACITY - \$80,000 (Originally \$210,000)**

As state and local staff monitored the direction of congressional WIA reauthorization and USDOL's plans to implement common measures, plans for Youth Council training, a best practices conference and retention training were no longer viewed as viable endeavors.

The quality institute for ABE teachers and program directors has been implemented, as outlined in the initial proposal.

### **SYSTEM BUILDING - \$65,500 (Originally 284,000)**

Usage of funds for One Stop Scholarships has not reached anticipated levels.

#### **ACCESS - \$230,000**

No modification.

## **OTHER**

The State requests permission to utilize any funds not needed for the projects listed above to expand the purchase of specialized computer workstations for the disabled as discussed in our original proposal and to defray costs of direct job order entry for business customers.